

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 34, 39, 40 and 42-44 are now presented for consideration. Claims 34 and 42 are independent. Claims 35-38 and 41 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 34, 39, 40 and 42 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention, while claims 43 and 44 have been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these changes and claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Claims 34-39, 41 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,864,130 to Kahn et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,303,398 to Goerigk. Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kahn et al. patent in view of the Goerigk patent and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,770 to Kucharczyk. Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach many features of the present invention, as previously recited in claims 34-42. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicant submits that independent claims 34 and 42, for example, as presented, amplify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

In one aspect of the present invention, independent claim 34 recites an apparatus for manufacturing a device using a substrate. The apparatus includes a container configured to contain the substrate, a process station configured to perform a process for the substrate, a transfer robot having a holding member for holding the substrate and a driving unit for driving the holding member, and configured to perform a transfer process that includes extracting the substrate out of the container and transferring the extracted substrate to the process station, and a reader configured to optically read a code formed on the substrate, of which information is to be used for manufacturing the device, in the transfer process performed by the transfer robot. The holding member includes, as a part of the reader, one of a light reflecting portion for reflecting light passed through the code on the substrate held by the holding member, a light scattering portion for scattering light passed through the code on the substrate held by the holding member, a code detecting portion for detecting the code on the substrate held by the holding member, and a code illumination portion for illuminating the code on the substrate held by the holding member.

In another aspect of the present invention, independent claim 42 recites an exposure apparatus for performing exposure of a first substrate to a pattern from a second substrate. The apparatus includes a container configured to contain an object, the object being one of the first and second substrates, a process station configured to perform a process for the object, a transfer robot having a holding member for holding the object and a driving unit for driving the holding member, and configured to perform a transfer process that includes extracting the object out of the container and transferring the extracted object to the process station, and a reader configured

to optically read a code formed on the object, of which information is to be used for the exposure, in the transfer process performed by the transfer robot. The holding member includes, as a part of the reader, one of a light reflecting portion for reflecting light passed through the code on the substrate held by the holding member, a light scattering portion for scattering light passed through the code on the substrate held by the holding member, a code detecting portion for detecting the code on the substrate held by the holding member, and a code illumination portion for illuminating the code on the substrate held by the holding member.

Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest such features of the present invention, as recited in independent claims 34 and 42. Specifically, Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest at least the features of the holding member of the present invention, which includes, as a part of the reader, one of a light reflecting portion, a light scattering portion, a code detecting portion, and a code illumination portion.

The Kahn et al. patent teaches a wafer presentation device, on which a laser scanner 30 is mounted. Applicant submits, however, that the Kahn et al. patent merely teaches mounting the reader assembly (that is, the laser scanner 30) on the wafer presentation device. Still further, Applicant believes that the support member 22 in the Kahn et al. patent, which is driven by the driving unit, may be considered to correspond to the holding member of the present invention. Based on this reading, however, Applicant submits that the support member 22 in the Kahn et al. patent does not include one of a light reflecting portion, a light scattering portion, a code detecting portion, and a code illumination portion, as a part of the reader. Applicant submits,

therefore, that the Kahn et al. patent does not teach or suggest salient features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claims 34 and 42.

Applicant further submits that the remaining art cited does not cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to the Kahn et al. patent.

The Goerigk patent merely teaches a system in which a bar code contains information about different processes for a semiconductor wafer. The Kucharczyk patent merely teaches that a code can be formed in a transparent substrate. Applicant submits, however, that neither of these patents, as with the Kahn et al. patent discussed above, teaches or suggests salient features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claims 34 and 42, such as the holding member, which includes, as a part of the reader, one of a light reflecting portion, a light scattering portion, a code detecting portion, and a code illumination portion. Applicant submits, therefore, that the Goerigk and Kucharczyk patents add nothing to the teachings of the Kahn et al. patent that would render obvious Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claims 34 and 42.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 34 and 42, is patentably defined over the cited art, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

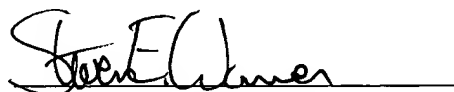
Dependent claims 39, 40, 43 and 44 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant further submits that this Amendment After Final Rejection places this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant believed that the prior Amendment placed the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is requested under 37 CFR 1.116.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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